

Harper Dry Lake

Description/Location: Harper Dry Lake is a year-round marsh and wetland utilized by a variety of resident and migratory bird species, as well as a watchable wildlife area for viewing these species. It is located within and along the southwestern border of Harper Lake playa in San Bernardino County, approximately twenty miles northwest of Barstow off of Harper Lake Road.

Nationally Significant Values:

Ecological: Harper Dry Lake is recognized as a Key Raptor Area by the BLM, which designated 223 areas nationwide. Key Raptor Areas are places known to be significant habitats for selected species of birds of prey, and Harper Dry Lake is 1 of 7 Key Raptor Areas in the California desert. The species known to utilize the habitat at Harper Dry Lake are northern harrier, short-eared owl, ferruginous hawk, and long-eared owl.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: This ACEC was designated in the CDCA Plan of 1980, and the management plan was approved in June of 1982, and later in 2006, additional management provisions were incorporated in the plan.

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant biological resources. Before early settlement and adjacent agricultural activities, this playa possessed a shallow water table feeding a productive meadowland habitat. At that time, surface water flowed in the Mojave River throughout the year in much of the West Mojave and spring flows were frequent. With the advent of ranching and later agriculture, much of the Harper Lake meadowland was degraded, and with additional populations and dams, Mojave River flow has been substantially reduced and flows down river of the Victor Valley area are infrequent. With the advent of larger agricultural operations in the area, runoff replenished the Harper Lake playa environs, and along with occasional natural replenishments provide pockets along a 2-mile long stretch of Harper Dry Lake playa that have become a unique lacustrine marsh oasis in the West Mojave. The importance of this area is as the most extensive area of concentrated nesting and migratory bird habitat in this portion of the West Mojave desert.

Goals: To maintain in a healthy condition, sensitive and unique marsh habitat present along the western playa shoreline of Harper Dry Lake, and implement provisions of the West Mojave Plan regarding conservation of plant and animal species. Other uses which are compatible with achieving these objectives will be allowed in the ACEC.

For NLCS Lands: Where this ruleset differs from the plan-wide NLCS rulesets, the more restrictive rules will apply.

Designation and Acreage by Alternative:

Alternative	BLM Acres of NLCS within ACEC or Wildlife Allocation	BLM Acres within ACEC	BLM Acres within Wildlife Allocation	ACEC Disturbance Cap
No Action	0	500	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	0	500	0	0.5%
1	0	500	0	0.5%
2	500	500	0	0.5%
3	0	500	0	0.5%
4	0	500	0	0.5%

* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

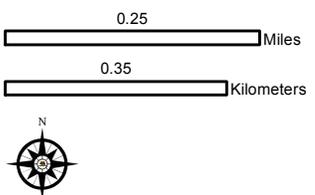
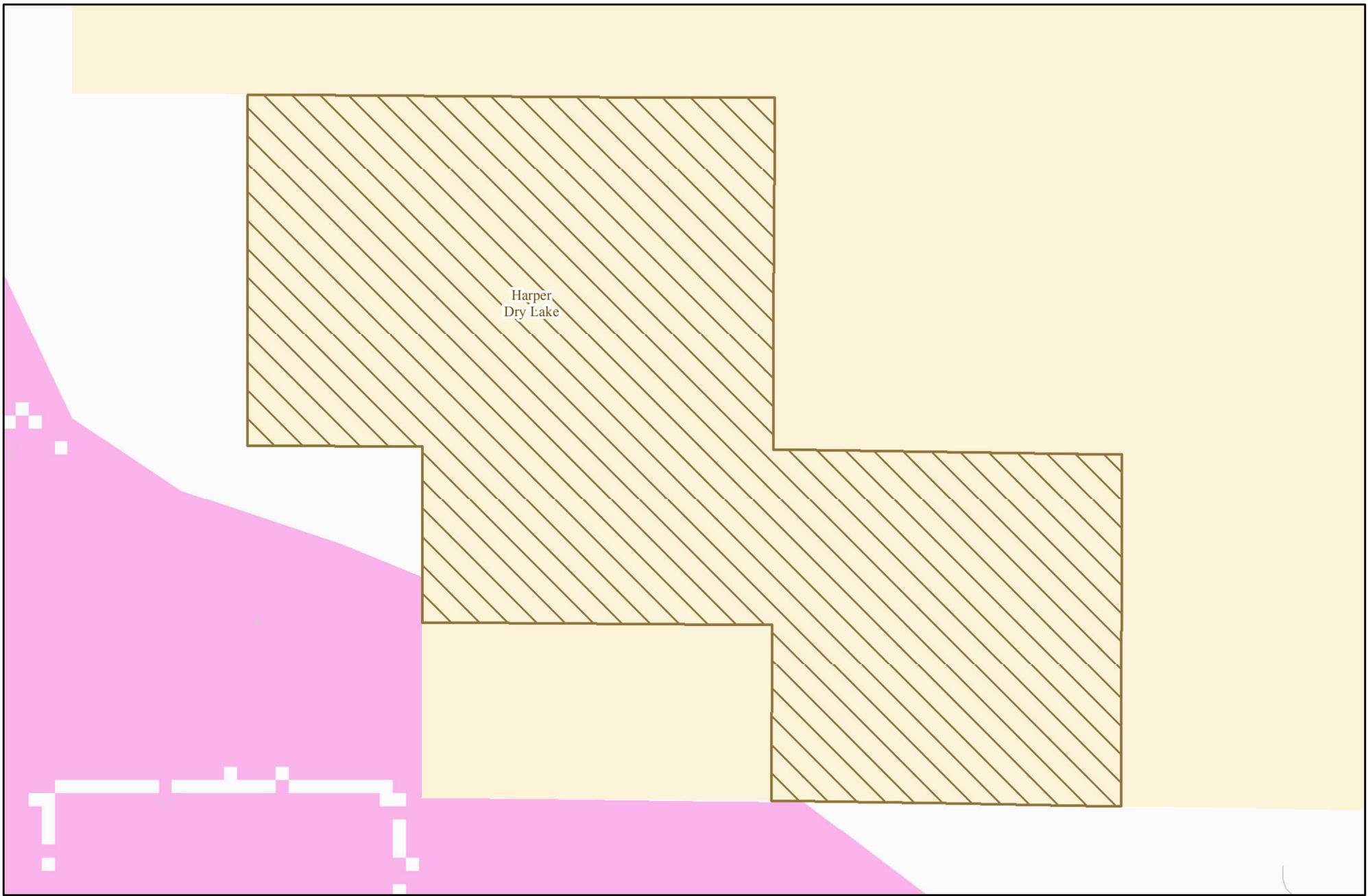
Alternatives:

All Alternatives – This existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
<p>Objective: Provide water to support sensitive plants and wildlife Management Action 1: Provide a reliable permanent source of water to replenish the wetland habitat steady water supply even in the event that agricultural operations are curtailed; 2) this water should not contain as high a salt content or chemical concentration as agricultural overflow; 3) a means of monitoring extent of water allocation from agricultural operations may be difficult to provide; and 4) the relative amounts of water which supply this portion of the marsh from individual operators is not known. Management Action 2: Water quality will be monitored on an annual basis. This includes water salinity levels, total dissolved solids, trace elements, residues, and dissolved oxygen content.</p> <p>Objective: Obtain additional information on reptile, mammal, bird and plant species composition Management Action: Conduct surveys to verify the presence of species which are likely to occur here, and to use as baseline data for assessing long-range trends.</p>	Soil, water, air
<p>Objective: Improve quality of marsh vegetation and habitat for sensitive species Management Action 1: Remove highly competitive, exotic invasive species within the ACEC. All tamarisk within the marsh and drainage channels within the ACEC will be located and removed Management Action 2: Establish cottonwood trees and/or willows at select points and increase habitat heterogeneity through experimental plantings</p>	Vegetation – Including special status species

<p>Objective: Protect Western Snowy Plover nesting habitat Management Action: Post signs and restrict human access near nest sites</p> <p>Objective: Maintain records associated with Key Raptor Area designation Management Action: A raptor census will be conducted of the Harper Dry Lake Key Raptor Area every 5 years, subject to available funds. Information will be stored in the BLM nationwide database of Key Raptor Areas.</p>	<p>Fish and Wildlife – Including special status species</p>
<p>Objective: Prevent loss of critical marsh habitat from intensive recreation use Allowable Uses: Lands within 100 yds. of marsh vegetation are closed to motorized vehicles and landsailers, Management Actions: Restrict vehicle traffic to open routes of travel</p>	<p>Trails and Travel Management</p>
<p>Objective : Prevent loss of critical marsh habitat from intensive recreation uses Allowable Uses: Lands within 100 yds. Of marsh are closed to camping Management Action: Employ rangers to enforce Allowable Use restrictions</p>	<p>Recreation</p>
<p>Objective: Consolidate management of area Management Action: An additional 800 acres containing marsh habitat will be acquired, if possible, through exchange interested private landowners, these lands shall be added to the ACEC for purposes of uniform management</p>	<p>Land Tenure</p>
<p>Right of Way Avoidance Area</p>	<p>Rights of Way (ROW)</p>
<p>Not an allowable use. Renewable energy development is not compatible with NLCS and ACEC unit values and criteria</p> <p>Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development</p>	<p>Renewable Energy</p>
<p>Objective: Protect sensitive marsh habitat from livestock grazing impacts Allowable Uses: No grazing allowed</p>	<p>Livestock grazing</p>

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Preferred Alternative ACECs

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Prepared by BLM California State Office



ACEC Layers

-  Existing ACEC
-  Proposed ACEC
-  Proposed NLCS
-  Design Focus Areas
-  Legislatively and Legally Protected

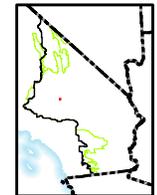
-  Cities
-  OHV Areas
-  CDCA Boundary
-  DRECP Boundary
-  BLM Field Office

Land Status

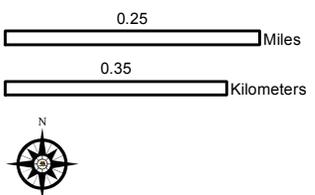
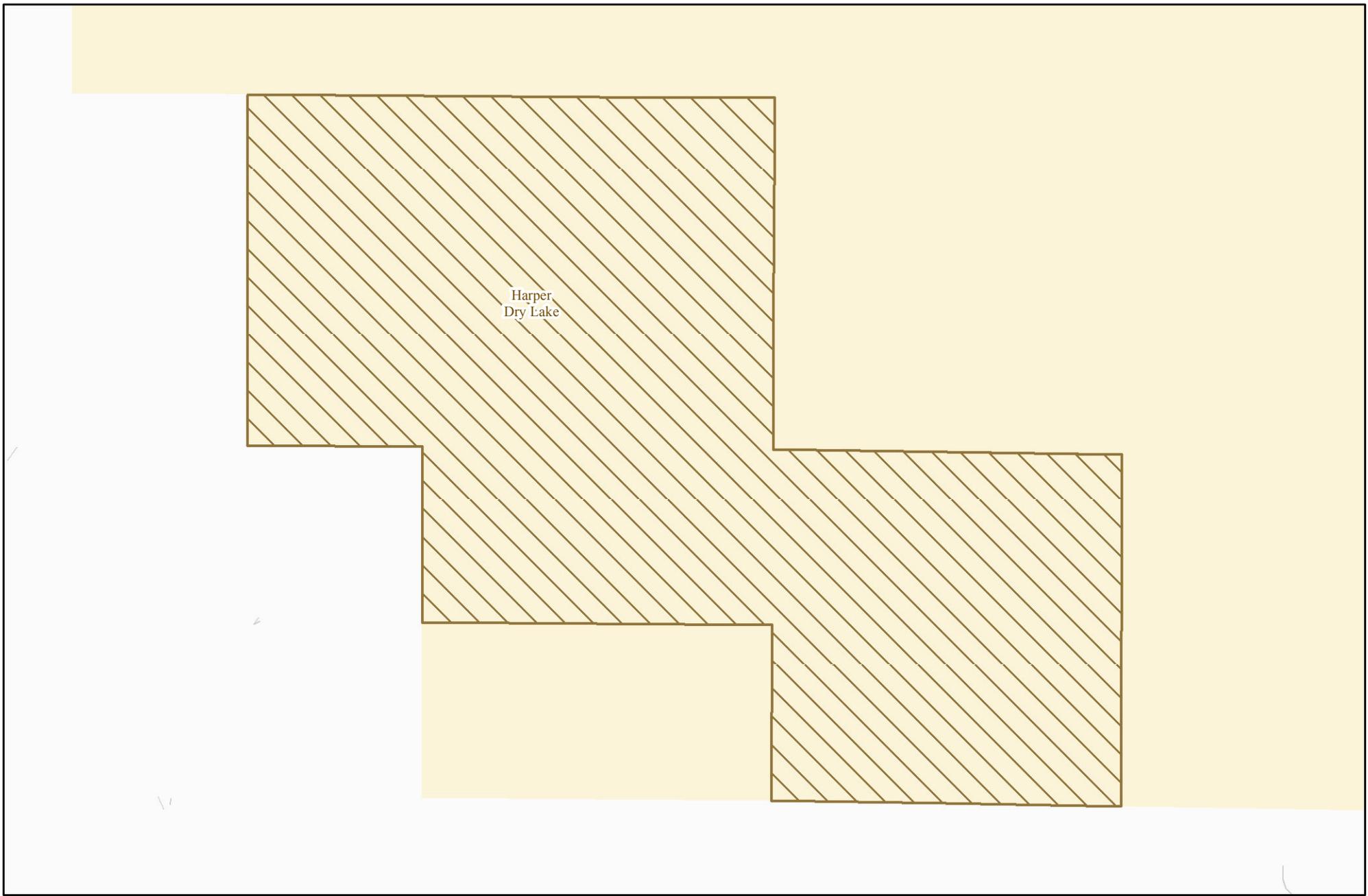
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  State
-  Other Federal
-  Military
-  Private

GTLF

-  Interstate
-  US Hwy
-  CA Hwy
-  County Hwy



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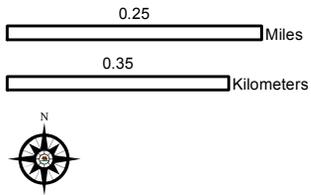
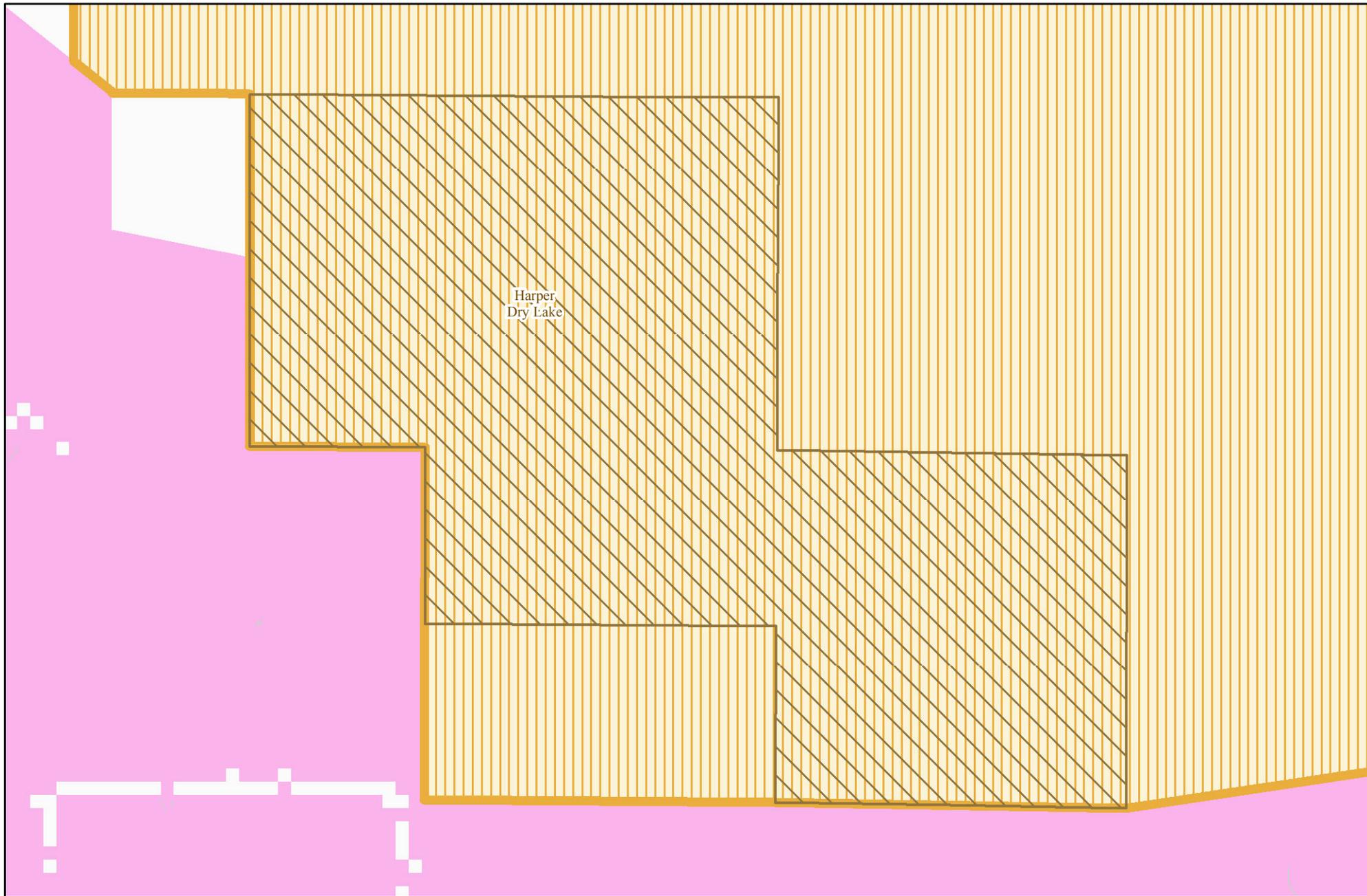
Alternative 1 ACECs
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ACEC Layers		Land Status		GTLF
Existing ACEC	Cities	Bureau of Land Management	Interstate	US Hwy
Proposed ACEC	OHV Areas	State	Other Federal	CA Hwy
Proposed NLCS	CDCA Boundary	Military	Private	County Hwy
Design Focus Areas	DRECP Boundary			
Legislatively and Legally Protected	BLM Field Office			



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Alternative 2 ACECs
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ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- Proposed ACEC
- Proposed NLCS
- Design Focus Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

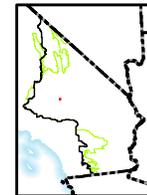
- Cities
- OHV Areas
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

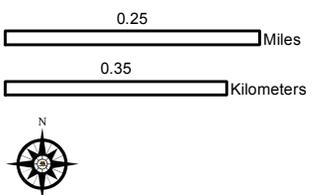
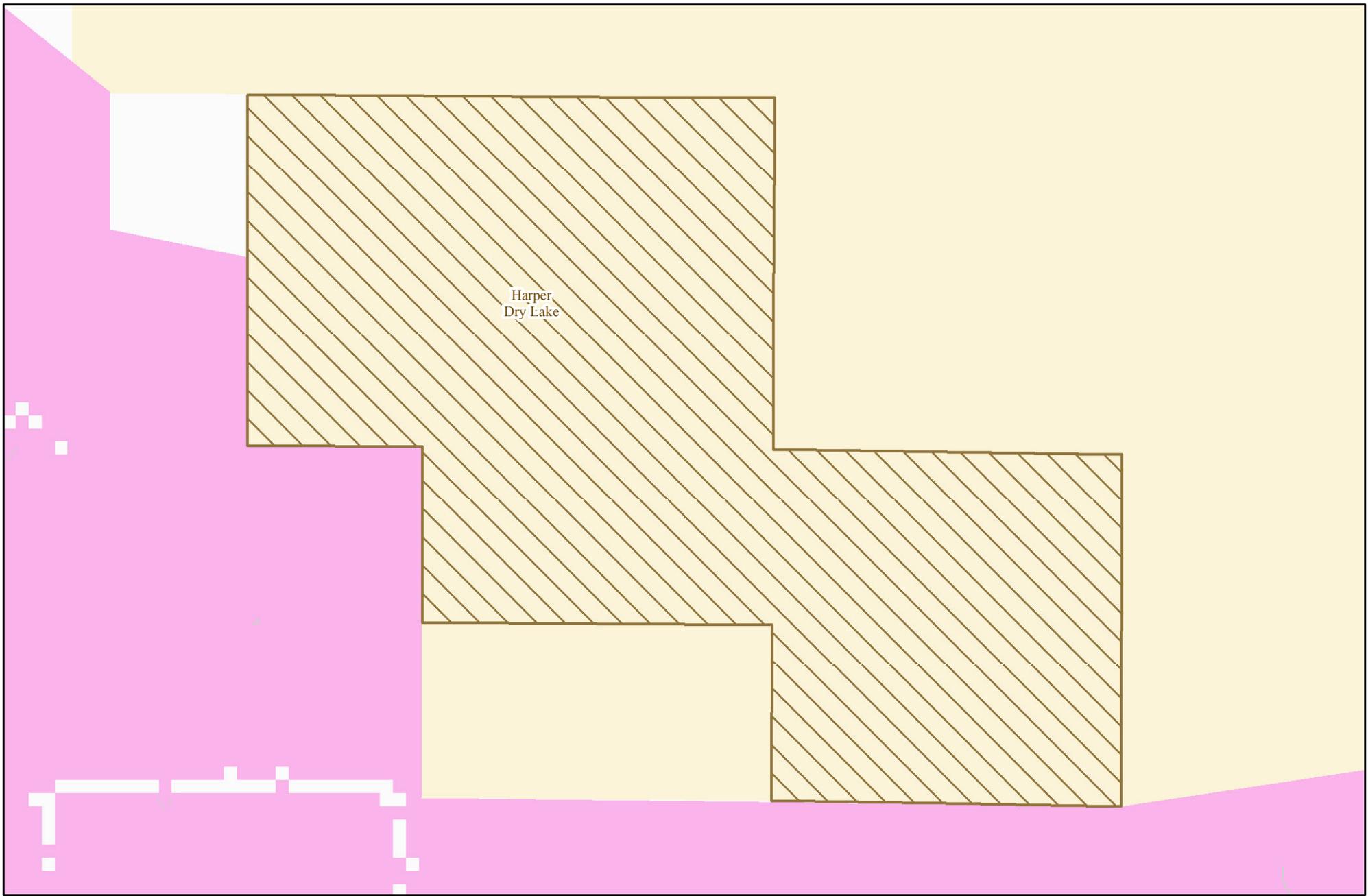
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



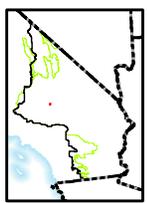
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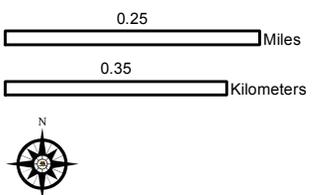
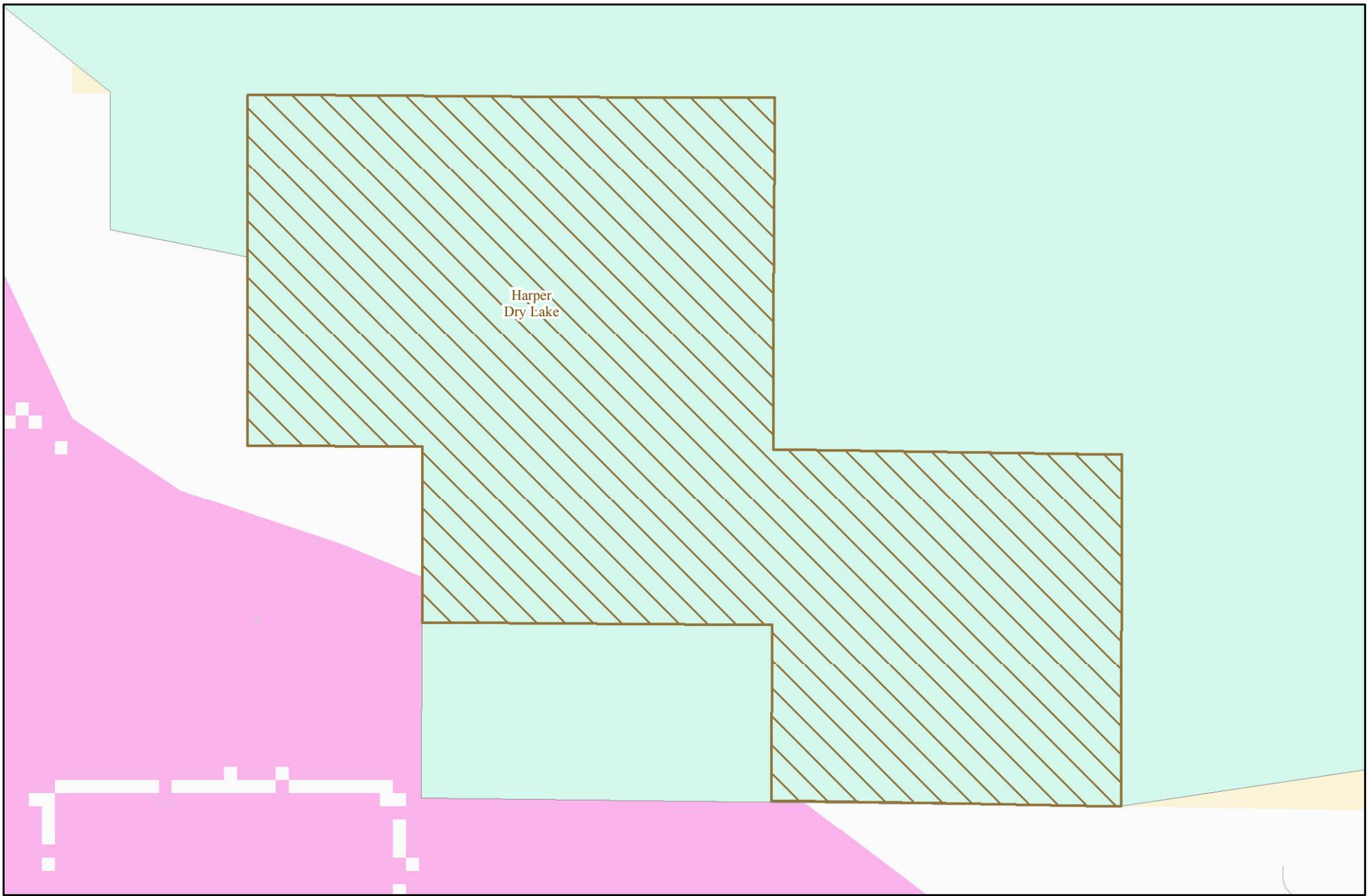
Alternative 3 ACECs
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ACEC Layers		Land Status		GTLF
Existing ACEC	Cities	Bureau of Land Management	State	Interstate
Proposed ACEC	OHV Areas	Other Federal	Military	US Hwy
Proposed NLCS	CDCA Boundary	Private		CA Hwy
Design Focus Areas	DRECP Boundary			County Hwy
Legislatively and Legally Protected	BLM Field Office			



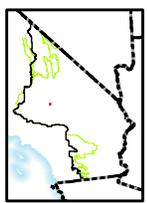
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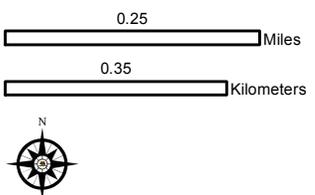
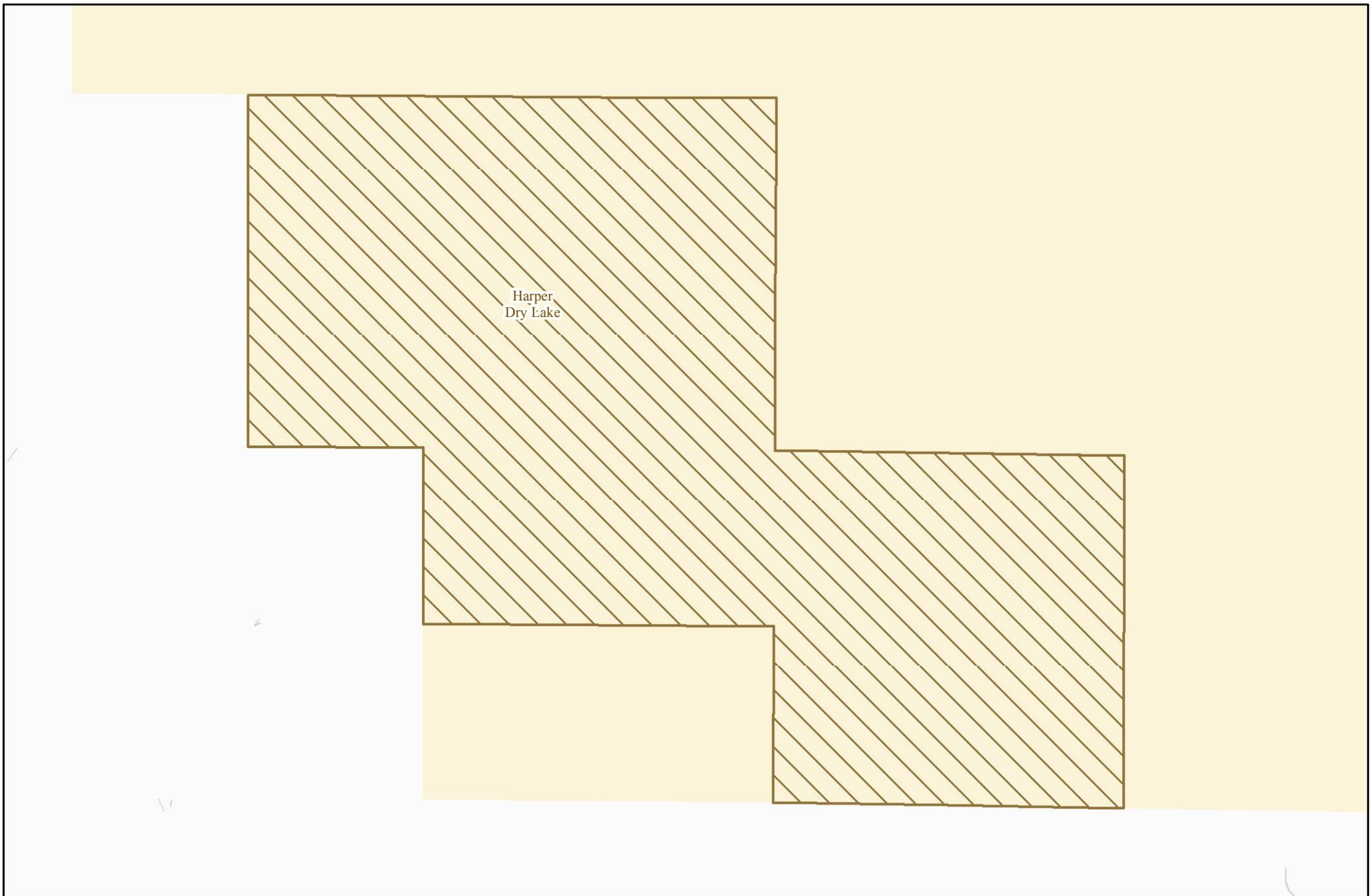
Alternative 4 ACECs
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ACEC Layers		Land Status		GTLF
Existing ACEC	Cities	Bureau of Land Management	State	Interstate
Proposed ACEC	OHV Areas	Other Federal	Military	US Hwy
Proposed NLCS	CDCA Boundary	Private		CA Hwy
Design Focus Areas	DRECP Boundary			County Hwy
Legislatively and Legally Protected	BLM Field Office			



Harper Dry Lake



No Action ACECs
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ACEC Layers

- Existing ACEC
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected

- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

